

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1238

By Bone

A RESOLUTION providing for a study of animal shelters in Tennessee and standards therefor.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT) at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine is hereby directed to conduct a study and gather, analyze, and summarize data relative to animal sheltering and the maintenance of impounded animals in certified animal control agencies within the State of Tennessee. The purpose of such study is to:

- (a) Document the state of certified animal control agencies and facilities in Tennessee in order to identify needs and gaps in processes and to develop and share best practices that are useful and practical for all animal shelters;
- (b) Improve, where needed, the welfare of animals in shelters and increase the public's confidence in the sheltering system; and
- (c) Assess the number of veterinarians working with animal shelters and certified animal control agencies in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the course of such study CAIT shall compile, at a minimum, the following information:

- (a) Catalog the services offered by each facility and record the total hours of operation and the hours open to the public for relinquishment, reclamation, and adoption of an animal;
- (b) Assess the physical plant of the animal shelter or impoundment facility to determine the presence and condition of the following areas:

- (1) Kennel/cage space for healthy dogs;
 - (2) Cage space for healthy cats;
 - (3) Kennel/cage space for dogs in quarantine;
 - (4) Cage space for cats in quarantine;
 - (5) Kennel/cage/holding space for farm animals, reptiles, small mammals, and other non-dog or non-cat animals received by the facility;
 - (6) Adequacy of ventilation within kennel/holding areas;
 - (7) Presence of a separate euthanasia room, if euthanasia is performed on-site;
 - (8) Availability of walk-in freezer or chest freezer(s) for storage of animal carcasses; and
 - (9) Presence of approved secured storage area for animal drugs, including euthanasia drugs;
- (c) Determine the presence of an operation policy and procedural manual for employees and volunteers and knowledge of and adherence to such policies and procedures by employees and volunteers;
- (d) Compile data from the previous twenty-four (24) months relative to animal shelter operations, including but not limited to: intake data, adoption data, returned-to-owner data, euthanasia data, transfer data, and fostering data; and
- (e) Review and examine methods of euthanasia; recordkeeping on euthanasia; status of certification, if required, of an animal shelter as a Certified Animal Control Agency; training/certification of euthanasia technicians; and compliance with state and federal laws regarding storage of and documentation of use of controlled euthanasia drugs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CAIT shall report its findings relative to such study to the House Agriculture Committee at a meeting called for such purpose and shall further prepare and submit a written report detailing the assessment and date-specific recommendations based on its findings, along with any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Program Director of CAIT at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

